

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 4-9, 11-13 and 15-28 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claim 2 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The December 14, 2004 Office Action indicated that only claims 2, 12, 13, 19 and 20 stand rejected, while claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 15-18 and 21-28 stand allowed and claims 5, 7 and 8 stand withdrawn from consideration.

As noted above, rejected independent claim 2 is hereby cancelled. Further, rejected dependent claims 12, 13 and 19 are amended to depend from allowed claim 11. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in allowable form.

Indefiniteness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 12, 13, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for reciting an “ordinary tension,” which the Examiner alleges is a relative term that is not defined in the Specification.

Applicants disagree, and direct the Examiner to page 7, lines 6-8 of the Specification, which specifies that:

After the engine 1 has been started, the set tension is switched or changed by the pulley unit 9 and the automatic belt tensioner 30 to an ordinary tension of the belt 10 suitable when the accessory is driven.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that “ordinary tension” is definite, as it is defined by the Specification as a tension “suitable when the accessory is driven,” and respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Obviousness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 12, 13, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hayakawa et al.* (US 4,478,595) in view of *Bartos et al.* (US 4,758,208).

Independent claim 2 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 12, 13, 19 and 20 are rewritten to depend (directly or indirectly) from allowable claim 11. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot, and request its withdrawal.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-9, 11-13 and 15-28 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 4-9, 11-13 and 15-28.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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